

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Rance L. Leaders, City Manager
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December 10, 1992

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MAIL BRANCH

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DEC 15 1992

VIDEO SERVICES

Dear Commissioners:

I am hoping you can help me address a question which was recently raised by a member of our Citizens Cable Television Advisory Committee. We were discussing the possibility of rates increasing due to new regulations requiring cable companies to pay broadcast facilities for retransmission.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FCC PROPOSED RULE MAKING
Comments on Regulation of Cable Rates

The Greater Battle Creek Area Citizens Cable Television Advisory Committee asks that, when developing rate guidelines, the FCC ensure a fair rate of return for cable operators while ensuring cable customers are not charged excessive amounts.



Tv Today

November 16, 1992

Cable Mtgs. Urge Patience, Preparation

"Don't rush into anything — and be well-prepared before entering negotiations," were two key messages from NAB's regional cable meetings, which got underway last week.

NAB Senior VP/TV Chuck Sherman said each broadcaster should take time and carefully weigh all considerations in the market before deciding whether to opt for must-carry or retransmission consent. To underscore the inherent value of broadcast signals, Sherman cited recent statistics from independent organizations and the cable industry. ~~Itself, showing broadcast channels enjoy a~~ considerably higher degree of viewership than other cable offerings. One survey indicates an overwhelming majority of cable viewers would object to a cable system that dropped any of the major over-the-air TV signals; two-thirds say they probably would end their subscriptions if broadcasters were not included.



Before entering into retransmission negotiations, Sherman advised broadcasters to consider numerous factors, including: number of stations in the market, relative ranking of each station, local program franchises, news ranking, and competing cable systems or MMDS providers. Broadcasters should keep negotiations amicable and out of the press, Sherman said.

Though seemingly the path of least resistance, must-carry could hurt future attempts at retrans-

Justice Asks Delay In Cable Case

Last Wednesday, the Department of Justice (DOJ) requested a delay of about three months in the briefing schedule for Turner Broadcasting's suit against must-carry and retransmission consent provisions of the Cable Act. The DOJ petition noted that because it will not defend the case, Congress must have time to act on its own behalf — something intervening parties, including NAB, cannot do.



~~NAB strongly supported the move, saying it is~~ essential that the government have ample time to retain proper counsel.

FEC Ends Unauthorized Name Game

The Federal Election Commission has prohibited the use of a candidate's name in the title or other designation of any communication by unauthorized political committees. The FEC took the action because candidate names in project titles increasingly have become a device for unauthorized committees to raise funds or disseminate information in a manner that may be confusing to the public. Until now, a candidate who objected to the use of his or her name in this manner was powerless to prevent it.

TeleDates